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APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT

BABY BOTTLE HOLDER FOR SELF-FEEDING

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No.
5 60/427,591, filed November 19, 2002.

BACKGROUND

The present invention is in the field of baby bottle holders. Specifically this invention relates to adjustable holders for holding a baby bottle such that infants
10 can feed themselves.

There are many baby bottle holders in the prior art, with the intention of allowing infants to feed themselves. Many of these use the method of propping up the bottle. There are also a few baby bottle holders which use the method of attaching the bottle holder to a car seat or a carrier handle. For example, U.S.
15 patent No. 4,718,623 discloses a bottle sling, which holds the bottle, and has one strap with which it may be attached to a car seat. This design requires the baby to turn its head, it does not maintain a proper feeding angle, and it is not easily adjustable for different baby bottle sizes. U.S. patent No. 6,213,547 discloses a hanging adjustable baby bottle holder with two straps for attaching to a car seat
20 handle. This design has a bar across the middle from which a ring is attached to hold the bottle. Hardware is used to secure the bottle, (a threaded bolt in the ring) which many people would not want in their infants face when the seat is moving. This design is also restricted to the u-shaped carrying handle.

An adjustable baby bottle holder is desired which is of simple construction,
25 and which would be adaptable to the many different types of carrying/stroller handles, or other support, which would adjust to any size bottle, which would hang at an appropriate feeding angle, which would return to position when knocked about by the infant, and which would be entirely flexible.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A baby bottle holder for baby self-feeding comprises an adjustable hanging means; and, a bottle holding means, attached to the adjustable hanging means, such that when hung, a bottle inserted into the bottle holding means hangs at an appropriate angle for feeding a baby positioned under the baby bottle holder.

This baby bottle holder is made of a flexible material, and adjusts easily to fit on a variety of car seat/carrier/stroller handles, or other support.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 is an isometric view of a baby bottle holder according to an aspect of the invention.

FIGURE 2 is a front view of a baby bottle holder according to an aspect of the invention.

FIGURE 3 is an isometric view of a baby bottle holder installed on a carrier with a U-shaped handle according to an aspect of the invention.

FIGURE 4 is an isometric front view of a baby bottle holder installed on a carrier with a sideways handle according to an aspect of the invention.

FIGURE 5 is an isometric rear view of a baby bottle holder installed on a carrier with a sideways handle according to an aspect of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Various aspects of the invention are presented in Figures 1-5 which are not drawn to scale and in which like components are numbered alike. Referring now to Figures 1-3, according to an aspect of the invention, a baby bottle holder **1** for baby self-feeding comprises an adjustable hanging means **10**, and a bottle holding means **20**. The bottle holding means **20** is attached to the adjustable hanging means **10** such that when hung, a bottle **30** inserted into the bottle holding means **20** hangs at an appropriate angle for feeding a baby positioned under the baby bottle holder **1**.

According to a further aspect of the invention, the adjustable hanging means **10** comprises straps **12** attachable by an adjustable fastener **14**. In a preferred embodiment, the adjustable fastener **14** comprises a hook and loop fastener. One such hook and loop fastener which may be used is sold under the trademark
5 Velcro. This is in no way intended to limit the adjustable fastener **14** to a hook and loop fastener, as any known adjustable fastener is within the purview of this invention. This not only allows adjustment for different types of carriers/car seats/strollers, or other supporting structures, but also allows for adjustment for different size infants.

10 In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the bottle holding means **20** is adjustable. According to a further preferred embodiment, the bottle holding means **20** is adjustable and comprises a bottle strap **22** with an adjustable closing means **24**. One preferred adjustable closing means **24** is a hook and loop fastener. This is in no way intended to limit the adjustable closing means **24**
15 to a hook and loop fastener, as any known adjustable closing means is within the purview of this invention. This allows for any type/shape of bottle to be held securely.

According to a further aspect of the invention, the adjustable hanging means **10** comprises straps **12** and a body portion **16**, wherein the bottle holding means
20 **20** is attached to the body portion **16**. According to a preferred embodiment, the bottle holding means **20** has a bottom end **26** and a top end **28**. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the bottom end **26** of the bottle holding means **20** is attached directly to the body portion **16** of the adjustable hanging means **10**, and the top end **28** of the bottle holding means **20** is attached to an extension **18**
25 which in turn is attached to the body portion **16**. According to a further aspect of the invention, this extension **18** is a piece of flexible material, such as a fabric, which has two ends, a first end **15** and a second end **19**, wherein the first end **15** of the extension **18** is attached to the body portion **16**, and the second end **19** of the extension **18** is attached to the bottle holding means **20**. This allows the
30 bottle **30** to be held in a position in which gravity forces the liquid contents into

the nipple area of the bottle **30**. Thus, even if the baby knocks the baby bottle holder **1** around, it will return to the baby at an appropriate angle for feeding.

In a further embodiment, the body portion **16** has a variety of fasteners **17** to further adjust the baby bottle holder **1**. In a preferred embodiment of the

5 invention, the fasteners **17** are snaps, although any known fastener is considered to be within the purview of the invention. The baby bottle holder **1** may be made of a flexible material, including, but not limited to, plastics, fabrics, and webbings.

In a preferred embodiment, the adjustable hanging means **10** and the bottle holding means **20** are made from a fabric material. This flexibility allows the

10 fasteners **17** to change the shape of the baby bottle holder **1** to adapt it to various carrier/stroller handle configurations. Thus it may be used for the standard u-shaped handle as well as for the sideways handle now used on some models (see Figure 4 and Figure 5), as well as on many other structures.

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